

5 APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PORTING APPLICATIONS TO
 DIFFERENT PLATFORMS

An apparatus and method for porting applications to different platforms are provided. The apparatus and method make use of a mapping table function that receives source filenames and directory structures and maps them to filenames and directory structures appropriate for a target platform. In a preferred embodiment, the apparatus and method map flexible filenames and directory structures, such as is found with the Unix filesystem, to more restrictive filenames and directory structures, such as is found with the OS/400 filesystem. In this way, an application developer can develop application files without being limited to the most restrictive filesystem conventions. That is, a developer may make use of the more flexible filesystem conventions of Unix, for example, when developing application files and use the apparatus and method of the present invention to automatically handle converting these more flexible filenames and directory structures to the more restrictive filenames and directory structures of platforms to which the application is to be ported.